

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

MIDDLESEX, SS

BOARD OF REGISTRATION  
IN MEDICINE

Adjudicatory Case 2015-005  
(RM-15-38)

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In the Matter of )  
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Joseph F. Piazza, M.D. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

**Final Decision & Order**

This matter came before the Board for final disposition on the basis of the Administrative Magistrate's Recommended Order of Summary Decision ("Recommended Decision"), dated September 4, 2015. After full consideration of the Recommended Decision, which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference, and Complaint Counsel's Memorandum on Disposition, the Board adopts the Recommended Decision, amending it by adding the following:

**Sanction**

The Board may, in accordance with 243 CMR 1.03(5)(a)(7) and M.G.L. c. 112, § 5(g), discipline a physician who has been convicted of a crime. In particular, the Board has long viewed with the utmost seriousness any physician's inability or failure to faithfully discharge the grave responsibility of issuing prescriptions for controlled substances, and has dealt strictly with cases involving the unlawful distribution of controlled substances. In these situations, the Board has generally imposed the sanction of revocation. See In the Matter of Michael L. Mavroidis, M.D., Board of Registration in Medicine, Adjudicatory Case No. 01-27-DALA (Final Decision and Order, November 19, 2008)(revocation for conviction on ten counts of unauthorized distribution of Class B, C and E controlled substances); In the Matter of Luis A. Molmenti,

M.D., Board of Registration in Medicine, Adjudicatory Case No. 2006-017 (Consent Order, April 12, 2006)(revocation for convictions on one count of health care fraud and one count of obtaining drugs by fraud); In the Matter of David C. Arndt, M.D., Board of Registration in Medicine, Adjudicatory Case No. 2005-031 (Final Decision and Order, November 16, 2005)(reaffirmation of prior revocation, for conviction on nine counts of controlled substance law violations); and In the Matter of Anish B. Doshi, M.D., Board of Registration in Medicine, Adjudicatory Case No. 02-11-XX (Consent Order, April 10, 2002)(revocation for admitting to sufficient facts for a finding guilty on 26 counts of illegal distribution of controlled substances).

As a function of its obligations to protect the public health, welfare and safety, it is proper for the board to exercise its authority to discipline the Respondent. See Levy v. Board of Registration in Medicine, 378 Mass. 519 (1979). Therefore, the Board REVOKES the Respondent's inchoate right to renew his license to practice medicine in the Commonwealth. The Board can foresee no circumstance under which it would allow a petition for reinstatement.

The Respondent shall provide a complete copy of this Final Decision and Order, with all exhibits and attachments, within ten (10) days by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by hand delivery to the following designated entities: any in- or out-of-state hospital, nursing home, clinic, other licensed facility, or municipal, state, or federal facility at which he practices medicine; any in- or out-of-state health maintenance organization with whom he has privileges or any other kind of association; any state agency, in- or out-of-state, with which he has a provider contract; any in- or out-of-state medical employer, whether or not he practices medicine there; and the state licensing boards of all states in which he has any kind of license to practice medicine. The Respondent shall also provide this notification to any such designated entities with which he becomes associated for the duration of this revocation. The Respondent is further

directed to certify to the Board within ten (10) days that he has complied with this directive. The Board expressly reserves the authority to notify independently, at any time, any of the entities designated above, or any other affected entity, of any action taken.

The Respondent has the right to appeal this final Decision and Order within thirty (30) days, pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, §§ 14 and 15, and G.L. c. 112, § 64.

DATE: November 19, 2015

*Candace Lapidus Sloane, MD*

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Candace Lapidus Sloane, M.D.  
Chair